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Montana Library Focus

Volume 25 Issue 1
February 2007

A Publication of the Montana Library Association

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Lyn McKinney

Greetings Montana Library Community!

2007 has started off with many Association activities. On January 9, we held our MLA Legislative Day. Our Government Affairs Committee (GAC) Chairperson, Lois Fitzpatrick, held a workshop on how to talk to Legislators and we all got to put that into action that evening at our Legislative Reception. We had a great turnout, with legislators and librarians from across the state enjoying conversation, Montana bluegrass and a delicious barbeque dinner. I want to thank Lois, the GAC, Darlene Staffeldt, and all the employees at the State Library for working so hard to make this a wonderful event.

Your MLA board met the next

day. Our fabulous 2007 conference co-chairs, Lisa Mecklenberg-Jackson and Judy Hart, are hard at work with their committees and brought us up to date on all things "Conference". At the suggestion of one of our members, our new Executive Director, Debbi Krammer, is very close to having an internet-based pay service implemented. We will have a link from the MLA web page so that everyone can pay for their membership, register for conference, and pay for Neil Gaiman tickets all from one point with our credit cards. Another new feature for our purchasing pleasure will be the addition of having this service at the MLA Bookstore at Conference. We will be able to purchase our Nancy Pearl action figures and newest books by Nancy and Neil Gaiman with our credit cards. Please keep watching the MLA website www.mtlib.org and *Wired* for updates.

Lois Fitzpatrick also updated the Board on our legislative agenda and where the bills are in the pro-

cess. This changes so often, sometimes by the hour, that I'm just going to be very general in my comments here, but I hope you are watching our listserve, Wired-MT. Lois and her committee are posting updates and calls for us to contact legislators. We call all help by paying attention to the postings and spending a few minutes responding appropriately.

I attended the SLMD Retreat on Saturday, January 27, at Capital High School in Helena. SLMD Co-Chairs, Suzi Watne and Margy Kearnan, and their wonderful group of Helena school librarians, did a great job organizing the event. Over thirty school librarians from Columbus to Kalispell were able to hear the latest at OPI from State Superintendent, Linda McCullough. We also had a wonderful presentation on Indian Education for All materials and the information available on the OPI website. Lunch was delicious and the roads were bare and dry - could it have been any better? YES - the door prizes just kept coming while Capital High social studies teacher and self-avowed nerd, Jason Neiffer, helped us set up RSS accounts, discussed podcasts and got us up to speed on everything wiki. I came away refreshed and excited about sharing what I had learned with my co-workers and students.

I start February by attending the OCLC Members Council in Quebec City, Quebec Canada. While there we will be visiting area libraries and continuing to discuss the expanding global cooperative. Our own Bruce Newell will be starting his

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tenure on the OCLC Board of Directors at this meeting. As always, if you have things you would like us to take to OCLC please contact us.

OCLC will be in Montana on Thursday, February 22, from 9 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the beautiful new Bozeman Public Library. The OCLC Western staff will be working with us to discuss mapping our user centric environments. If you haven't registered or want to check out the agenda, go to www.oclc.org/western/Montana/2007meeting/default.htm This meeting is a great opportunity to learn and get to meet OCLC staff.

This event is followed by Offline, held February 23 & 24 in Bozeman. Update your technology skills through great programs by Greg Notess, Mark Sheehan (the gadget guy) Suzanne Reymer & Lauren McMullen and more. Check out www.mtlib.org/offline/offlinemain.html for the full program. I went to Offline for the first time last year and loved it! If you haven't been to Offline - you are missing out!

The Association is alive and hopping! There are many more things going on that I didn't talk about, but I do want to remind you to pull together and try those virtual or face-to-face book discussion groups. Pick a book by Nancy Pearl or Neil Gaiman and share with each other.

We are still working on wrapping up the Pennies for Peace promotion. Please try to host a fundraiser or participate in Norma's latest (Schwann's) by April. Bring the proceeds to conference and help us push over that \$20,000.00 mark needed to build a school. As always, for ideas or more information contact Norma Glock at nglock@cablemt.net

I want to close by thanking all of you for your participation in our association. Many of you are volunteering to be on committees, run for office, and attending association events. This is what is keeping our association alive and well. Thank you! I look forward to seeing all of you April 25-28 in Helena at our 101st conference!

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Trustee's Corner

*By
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Carol Grover, Trustee Interest Group chair, and I hope you can join us in Helena for the annual MLA meeting April 25-28. As you'll notice there are so many presentations for trustees! We'll also host a special Interest Group breakfast meeting on Friday the 27th from 7-8 in addition to registering, would you please e-mail me or send a card if you would like to get together at another time too? Nine years ago when I became a trustee there were few opportunities to meet other trustees. There was no Trustee Handbook, no workshop opportunities, and no Trustee

Training program. Then, when I attended annual MLA meetings I would look out over a sea of faces and think that I'd love to get to know more trustees!

Now I appreciate all the effort that MSL has put into introducing trustees to the library world. We can continue to improve on communication in a helpful way. Why not drop me a note and list the major library projects that you have participated in or are planning. I am thinking of mill levy campaigns, strategic planning, hiring a new director, or re-modeling.

Are you willing to share your advice? Carol and I shall work on exchanges!!!

See you in Helena!

Montana Library Focus [ISSN 1076-352X] is the official publication of the Montana Library Association and is published as a service to its members. It is published six times a year: February, April, June, August, October and December. It has a print readership of 210 and an online readership of over 500. If you are interested in placing an ad, or sponsoring the MLA Focus Newsletter, please send your request to the editor.

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MLA Discussion List: WIRED-MT

Wired-Mt, our listserv, is open to members and non-members. Not all MLA members subscribe to Wired, and not every member of Wired is a member of MLA. MLA members would do well to remember that it is open to anyone with any interest (not necessarily sympathetic to our issues) in libraries. This is a place where people can get quick feedback to ideas and questions. It is a public forum centered on topics of interest to those interested in libraries. Its guidelines are available on our website www.mtlib.org

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For additional information, or if you have problems subscribing, contact Margaret Webster, List Manager (on behalf of MLA) at: mwebster@crowleylaw.com or 406-255-7201

Plains Public Library District Receives Gate From NRBA

By

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The Plains Public Library District was the proud recipient of a beautiful new gate designed and made by the Northern Rockies Blacksmiths Association. Each year at their fall conference the NRBA members, from the Northwest and Canada, get together and learn new blacksmithing techniques while working on a project for a local organization. This year the NRBA met in Plains, Montana. Plains area blacksmith, Terry Melton, wanted to do a project for the library and so a gate was what the group decided to do. Steve Fontanini, a blacksmith from Jackson Hole, Wyoming, was the designer. The gate offered up some very interesting challenges for the group. Each part was hand forged and it took approximately 400 man hours to complete. The women blacksmiths worked on the calla lilies at the top while some blacksmiths from Canada worked on getting the shape of Montana just right for the bottom. The gate weighs more than 200 pounds and swings on one pivot point in the floor. The blacksmiths said this was one of the most intricate projects they had worked on and if they had to sell it the cost would be \$2,000.00 a foot. This was quite a wonderful donation to the library and a gorgeous piece of artwork. When you are in the area, please stop by and take a look.



Friends, Chocolate, and a Movie

By

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The Great Falls Public Library has Friends and their number is growing. Forming in August of 2006, the Friends of the Great Falls Public Library are taking on Valentine's Day.

On February 14, The Friends of the Great Falls Public Library and the Great Falls Public Library are hosting *Friends, Chocolates and a Movie*, beginning with a chocolate extravaganza in the library's lobby. The idea is to set the mood of the evening by sampling chocolate in all its varied delight.

This will include delightful decadent desserts, all chocolate, of course. Folks can also sign up for a chance to win a homemade chocolate cake baked by a local food maestro. Tickets will be \$1.00/each or \$5.00 for six. All proceeds will go towards supporting library programs.

The chocolate event will be followed by the library's Foreign and Independent Film Series screening of the movie *Be With Me*. This Chinese movie speaks of the universality of love, loss, longing and redemption. With this theme topped off by a taste of chocolate, Valentine's Day will be celebrated in style at the Great Falls Public Library.



"Who's Who at the Library" Great Horned Owl was frequenting a tree in the front of the Great Falls Public Library in January. Photo taken by Korri Shupe

New Formats

Always looking for ways to utilize developing technology to satisfy patron needs, the Great Falls Public Library announces it will begin circulating digital audio books, commonly referred to as Playaways, at the end of February. Staff is currently working out details and procedures. For example, it was decided to sell separately the ear buds that come with the Playaways, along with headphones, in the Library Store, for a moderate price. For now, about 50 of the digital audios will be in circulation. This will provide an opportunity to evaluate their durability compared to other audio formats, the cost effectiveness and the popularity. Both fiction and nonfiction are represented in this initial batch and include language audios as well as such popular titles as *A River Runs Through It*.



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State Library News



All of the following articles relating to programs and services of the Montana State Library are by:

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Gates Foundation Sends Librarians to OFFLINE and ALA

As part of the Gates Foundation's Rural Library Sustainability (RLS) project, all public library directors who attended the "Keeping Patrons Well Connected" workshops last year were eligible to apply for a trip to the June 2007 ALA conference in Washington, DC. The State Library received five applications and special permission was received from the Gates Foundation to send all five applicants to ALA: Renee Goss (Sidney), Bridgett Johnson (Lewistown), Renee McGrath (Stevensville), Kathy Mora (Great Falls), and Samantha Pierson (Libby). The group will attend a Gates pre-conference session on sustaining public access to electronic resources, and then they are free to partake in any ALA sessions and activities of their choosing.

The Gates Foundation also approved using a small balance in the RLS grant to help two library directors attend the 2007 OFFLINE retreat in Bozeman. The names of all public library directors attending the "Keeping Patrons Well Connected" workshops were placed in a hat. Donna Worth (Whitehall) and Janeen Brookie (Malta) were selected to receive the money to attend OFFLINE.

2007 Summer Institute: Change of Location

The location of this year's Summer Institute was previously announced as Billings, but because of schedule conflicts with MSU-B the location has been changed to Bozeman on the main MSU campus. We apologize for any difficulties this change may cause. The institute dates, June 5-7, have not changed.

Registration will begin in April.

It's a Disaster!

This year the institute will focus on emergency preparedness and the creation of a disaster plan for public libraries. The training will include how to prepare an effective plan using dPlan, a free online template www.dplan.org designed by the Northeast Document Conservation Center and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. By entering data into the dPlan template, libraries are able to create a customized plan that can prevent or mitigate disasters, prepare the library for the most likely emergencies, make it possible for a quick response to minimize damage if disaster does strike, and help with recovery from a disaster while continuing to provide library services to the community.

This topic is especially timely now that all public libraries are required to create a disaster plan using the dPlan model to meet the new public library standards. To meet the standards, disaster plans must be submitted to the State Library for approval by July 1, 2007. However, if a library has participants attending the institute, this deadline is extended to October 1, 2007. One objective for the institute is that each participant will leave Bozeman with the start of a comprehensive disaster plan to be finalized and approved by the library board to meet the October deadline.

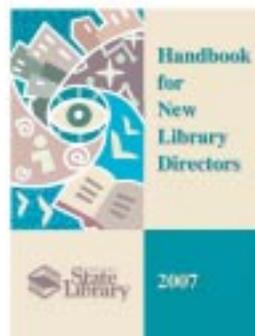
Montana Library Event Calendar

calendar.mtlib.org Check online for upcoming library training/activities AND add your upcoming event to the calendar.

Gates PAC-HUG Update

In 2006, all public and branch libraries were invited to participate in the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's Public Access Computer-Hardware Upgrade Grant project to replace/upgrade/add computers used by the public to access electronic resources. Based on the age of existing PACs, libraries qualified for different amounts of grant funds in varying grant categories. Some PAC-HUG projects were completed in 2006 and some libraries were awarded funds for use to sustain public access computing through 2008. The total PAC-HUG budget is \$295,500 and the projection is for at least 258 computers to be purchased across the state. To date, \$170,128 has been spent to purchase 162 computers, which have been installed in 65 Montana public & branch libraries.

Updated Handbook for New Directors



The 2007 *Handbook for New Library Directors* has just been updated and reprinted. It replaces the 2003 edition. Copies of the new

handbook were distributed to all public libraries in late January. The publication is also available online at msl.mt.gov/idd/Directors/NewDirHndbk.pdf.

State Library News Continued on page 5...

One More Scholarship!



Montana State Library is excited to offer one \$25,000 scholarship for a Montana resident to earn a graduate library degree from the University of Washington. The scholarship is available through the Professional Education and Employment for Librarians (PEEL) project funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The timeline is short – applications are due to the UW Information School www.ischool.washington.edu/mlis/prospective.aspx by March 15, 2007 and scholarship applications msl.mt.gov/greatcareer/files/schapp07.pdf are due to Montana State Library by April 15, 2007. Applicants must be able to begin the three-year distance MLIS program in the fall of 2007. Following graduation, the scholarship recipient is required to work full-time for two years in a professional librarian position in a Montana public, public school (K-12), or tribal library.

Evaluation of the State Library

Every five years, Montana State Library is required to evaluate the use of Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds to meet goals and objectives in the state's long-range plan. Johnson & Johnson Consulting of Waunakee, WI, was selected in November to collect data and prepare a formal written report evaluating Montana's 2002-2007 five-year plan. Many of you completed the electronic survey created by the consultant as one of the primary data collection tools. The report will be submitted in March 2007 to meet the IMLS evaluation deadline. The document will be posted on the State Library web site in early April.

Dolly Parton and Libraries?

By
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What do Dolly Parton and her Dollywood Foundation, the Big Sandy Branch Library, Choteau County Free Library, and the Big Sandy Rotary Club have in common? They are great supporters of early childhood literacy. They are collaborating to bring quality children's books to the pre-schoolers of Big Sandy, Montana...for free. This program is offered to all children 0 to five of years of age in the Big Sandy School District. Dolly is offering her Imagination Library for replication in any community that would support it.

When a child is registered for the Imagination Library he/she will receive a quality children's book selected for their appropriate age each month until they are five years old. The books come addressed to the child at their home. The first book is ***The Little Engine That Could***.

The public library is the place where everyone gets to register for the program! After advertising through local posters, newspapers, radio and school lunch menus the parents and grandparents in the community will come pouring into the library to find out how to sign their kids up for "the free books." While you register children they may become interested in your story hour or other programs you offer at your library. Local folks will once again be reminded that the library provides so many opportunities for their communities. This program may help cast the patron net a little further into your area of service.

Each community needs a "Champion" to support the program. After hearing about the program the Big Sandy Rotary Club was ready to give the gift of reading to the children in the community. Literacy is one of the goals of the Rotary Club International and since the local club has been an outstanding supporter of the youth in Big Sandy for years – it seemed like a good fit. The champion finances the cost of the books and the mailing. The cost averages out to about \$27.00 per year per child.

By now I know you are asking yourselves who might the champion be in our area? Champions come in many forms. They may be businesses, individuals, Untied Ways, school systems, local and state government, foundations and non-profits. A former library director from Tennessee recently shared with me that their governor thought the program so outstanding, he decided to make it statewide!

After some recent inquiries about the program I was reminded that it is very important for potential champions to know specifically WHY a program like this is important and needed in our Montana communities. HOW it can improve the lives of their children and their futures. They need to understand that this program can help inspire parents to read to their children and see early on the value of the book.

As you are reading this, 46 children in the little rural town of Big Sandy are starting their own library in their homes, they have received five books by now and they can't wait to get their next package.

If you may be interested in finding a local champion and partnering and would like more information log onto imaginationlibrary.com, or write to Executive Director, David Dotson at ddotson@dollyfoundation.com. I would also be very willing to provide you with any other information about the process.

Membership News

By
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Please extend a welcome to our new MLA members.

Bill Burger, Trustee, Butte Public Library

Jamie Lynn Fontain, MSU-Billings

Laurie Hickethier, Laurel Public Library

Stacey Hyatt, Bainville School Library

Bruce McCullough, Trustee, Laurel Public Library

Janet Sublett, Belgrade Intermediate School Library

Carol Thompson, Rapelje Public School Library

Daniel Thompson, St. Ignatius School-Community Library

Audrey Wagner, Canyon Creek School Library

Sheree West, Big Sky Community Library

Please take the time now to renew your membership. You can check out your status by going to the MLA web site and checking the Membership List.

If you know of librarians who aren't members, send their names to one of the Directors-at-Large, and they will mail out a membership brochure. New members get to attend the New Members' Breakfast free at MLA.

PNLA News

By
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It is time to dust off your passport or apply for a passport if you do not have one. This will help you get across the border for the Pacific Northwest Library

Conference News

Editors Note: There is an abundance of Conference-related articles this issue. The Conference articles will spill over to the next few pages.

Registration Has Begun!

Looking for something to do other than spring cleaning this April? Then look no more, attend this year's MLA Conference ***The Tipping Point: Moving Montana Libraries from Good to Great***. Join us in Helena, April 25-28th for a conference packed with great workshops, fabulous speakers, and terrific events. We promise that you won't be disappointed. For more information and a complete conference schedule, log onto www.mtlib.org/conf/mla2007/index.htm.

Innovative Ways To Participate at Conference

By
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Edible Book Art Contest

Are you a reader, creative, AND a wiz in the kitchen? Then I have the perfect event for you. An edible book contest! Start thinking about your favorite book—and whether you could turn it into something edible. Look for inspiration here. books2eat.com/books2eat2006.html, or here colophon.com/ediblebooks/books2eat2005.html

Books will be showcased at MLA 2007 with the winner receiving a fabulous prize. With good participation, this could become an annual event—how hilarious! So come up with your best edible book art. We'll eat it in your honor! Contact me with any questions.

Pictures Of Conferences Past

Do you have any photos from previous MLA Conferences? If so, please send them to me (e-mail is best, Ljackson@mt.gov, but mail will work if you only have a hard copy). I will be working on a slideshow for MLA 2007 and could use any and all photos of past MLA Conferences. If you have any questions regarding any of the above, please contact me at the above addresses or phone number.

More Innovative Ideas on page 7...

Association's annual conference in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Save the dates of August 8-11, 2007 and join us for the boom to the echo; multigenerational impact on libraries. The program promises to have something for everybody; old, young, and inbetween.

Voting for this year's Young Readers Choice Awards will take place March 15 to April 1. Stu-

dents in grades 4 through 12 must have read at least three books to vote in this oldest children's choice award contest in the United States and Canada. Posters and seals are available through the store at www.pnla.org/yrca/store.htm. Bookmarks may be printed off the pnla.org website. More promotional materials will be available for the 2008 nominated titles.

Innovative Ideas continued...

PR Swap and Shop Montana-Style

They do it at ALA, let's do it in Montana. PR materials sought for Montana's first annual Swap & Shop (modeled after ALA's most successful event) www.ala.org/ala/lama/lamacommittees/publicrelationsb/swapandshop/Swapandshop2006.htm

Montana libraries of all types and sizes, share your creative, great PR efforts with your colleagues! Gain statewide exposure for your library's best marketing and promotional items by bringing them to the 2007 MLA Conference in Helena. Library professionals from all around the state will have the opportunity to fill their Swap & Shop tote bag full of the very best ideas in library public relations. Share your great ideas with your colleagues—we'll display them proudly at this event at a table in the exhibits hall. The event will showcase the library promotional materials (reading promotions for children, teens, adults and families, plus annual reports, calendars of events, newsletters, bookmarks, bibliographies, fundraising materials and more) submitted by libraries of all types and sizes around Montana. Come stop by and create your own library PR "idea kit."

Please bring 50-100 copies of your library's best marketing and promotional items to MLA 2007. Swap & Shop is sponsored by the MLA PR & Marketing Committee.

Do A Poster Session At MLA

Based on the positive response to last year's MLA Conference Poster Sessions, we're doing it again at MLA 2007. Proposal forms for poster sessions are available via the MLA Website at www.mtlib.org The deadline for submission is March 1, 2007. Poster sessions will be held as part of the regular conference programming on Friday, April 27.

A tie-in with the 2007 MLA Conference theme "The Tipping Point: Moving Montana's Libraries from Good to Great" is highly encouraged. There will be background tack boards for the poster sessions which are 4" x 8". You can see sample poster sessions using these types of boards here: www.lib.iastate.edu/ala/samp.htm. Be creative, be fun, get their attention!

Significant Tidings at MLA

By
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The Significant Tidings program, sponsored by ASLD, will be held on Friday, April 27 from 8:30 to 10:00. Presentations are 10-15 minutes long and help you spread the word about exciting projects taking place at your library. Please consider submitting a proposal for this session. Proposals should be sent to

rgebhardt@mt.gov no later than February 20. In the proposal please include the following:

Presenter(s) Name, Title, Address, E-mail and Phone Number.

Program Title
Program Description (50 word limit)

Target Audience: Academic, Public, School, Administration
Equipment Needs

This program works because of the great work that we all do in our libraries throughout the year. Let's share what we do with each other and continue to move Montana libraries from good to great!

Professional Development Grants Are Available

By
Marjorie Doyle, Chair
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If you are thinking about a professional development opportunity for late spring or summer - or - are planning on attending MLA in Helena in April YOU should consider applying for a grant from MLA. There is money in the budget and we'd love to consider your application. Please look at the MLA website www.mtlib.org and click on the GRANTS link to see the application for either travel grants to the MLA conference or professional development grants for other events. Click on the RESTRICTIONS AND CRITERIA link of the grants page to see the guidelines for both types of grants. Deadline for both are March 31st. Applications may be sent via email, fax or USPS. We look forward to hearing from you.

Montana 211 Update

By
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2-1-1 has been designated by the FCC as the national abbreviated dialing code for free access to health and human services information and referral (I&R). 2-1-1 is an easy-to-remember and universally recognizable number that makes a critical connection between individuals/families in need and the appropriate community-based organizations and government agencies.

A coalition of non-profits has been working for over three years to bring 2-1-1 to Montana. Currently, 2-1-1 phone service is only

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211 Continued ...

available in Missoula, Ravalli, Mineral and Cascade County from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, but the Montana 2-1-1 website does provide 24 hour service. The goal is to eventually provide phone service in every Montana county 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

In September of 2004, Voices of Hope in partnership with United Ways and other agencies across Montana, received funding from the National Library of Medicine for a three year Information Systems Grant. This funding allowed for the building of the backbone of 2-1-1 a database of statewide community resources (MT Community Resource Database) and an interactive website that allows for public access to that data.

The database and website were 80% finished in the Fall of 2006.

Since that time, we have been getting feedback from users (including librarians) and fine-tuning the system. On February 11, 2007, we will be doing a public relations launch of the website and database. We hope that this resource will assist service providers, libraries and the public in finding essential health and human service information. Please visit www.montana211.org. A searching tutorial will be placed on the website, but anyone interested in further information or additional training on the resource can contact Voices of Hope at 406-268-1330 or kristyvoh@3rivers.net.

By

Norma Glock, Chair
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The library community has been generous in their donation this fall to Job #12, Montana Library Association's account for helping Greg Mortenson build a school for Montana in Pakistan or Afghani-

One Lusty Librarian to Speak at MLA

By

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The *Los Angeles Times* calls her "One Lusty Librarian." The *New York Times* calls her "the talk of librarian circles." Her web page states, "Readers can't get enough of her recommendations while bookstores and libraries offer standing room only whenever she visits. Since the release of the best-selling *Book Lust* in 2003 and the Librarian Action Figure modeled in her likeness, Nancy Pearl has become a rock star among readers and the tastemaker people turn to when deciding what to read next."

Montana Librarians revere her. Action Figure Heroine Nancy Pearl will be one of our honored guests at this year's MLA conference. She will present the Keynote address on Thursday, at 10:30 AM. Pearl will discuss the role of libraries and librarians in her life, how *Book Lust* and its companions came to be written and some of the perils she's discovered in a life devoted to books and reading.

Following the Keynote address, Pearl will present a Reader's Advisory Workshop entitled, "Yes, Ma'm-Mood, Appeal, and Motivation in Providing Excellent Reader's Advisory Service". In order to effectively match up a reader with just the right book, you need to understand how to apply appeal characteristics, as well as working with the mood and motivation of the reader. In this session, Nancy will focus on defining, refining, and using appeal characteristics, the role of mood and motivation in selecting a good book to read, and tips and tricks to use in readers' advisory work at the reference desk.

In anticipation of Nancy Pearl's appearance at MLA, Suzanne Reymer, Statewide Technology Librarian, came up with a fabulous idea to tour the Nancy Pearl Action Figurine around Montana and use the pictures to create a slideshow for the Cates Fundraiser. "While we may not be able to bring Nancy Pearl to each of our communities, we can introduce her to some of the wonders of our state via our Nancy Pearl Librarian Action Figures.

To participate, simply take photos of your action figure at your library, in your community, attending book-related events, etc. and post them on Flickr at: www.flickr.com/groups/52279058@N00

For more information on Pearl's appearance this year's MLA conference, log onto www.mtlib.org and check out the conference program.

Central Asia Institute Update

stan. The account is near \$18,500 so \$1,500 more will get us to the goal we set in our resolution three years ago.

Greg is now on book tour to promote the paperback edition of his book *Three Cups of Tea* which was due out on February 1. The subtitle has been changed from *One Man's Mission to Promote*

Peace...One School at a Time to One Man's Mission to Fight Terrorism and Build Nations...One School at a Time which is also the subtitle on the audio book. He will be honored again in March when he receives a 2007 book award from the Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association at their conference in Portland.



Nancy Pearl

Award-Winning Author of *Sandman*, *American Gods*, and *Anansi Boys*, Neil Gaiman Will Also Speak at MLA!

By
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During the course of twenty years as a writer, Neil Gaiman has been one of the top writers in modern comics. He is also a movie and television screenwriter, a journalist, and a best-selling novelist. Described as “the best-selling author you never heard of” by *Forbes* magazine, Gaiman’s latest book, *Fragile Things*, contains stories set in the world of “The Matrix,” and others set in the worlds of gothic fiction and children’s fiction. This extraordinary collection showcases Gaiman’s storytelling brilliance as well as his terrifyingly entertaining dark sense of humor.

He was the creator and writer of the monthly cult DC Comics horror-weird series, *Sandman*, which won twelve Eisner Comic Industry Awards and a World Fantasy Award for best short story, making it the first comic ever to receive a literary award. He has a huge Web presence, and his personal Web site, neilgaiman.com, was singled out by CNN for reinventing the marketing of a novel.

Norman Mailer called *Sandman* “a comic strip for intellectuals,” and the *Los Angeles Times* called the series “the greatest epic in the history of comic books.” *Sandman* was introduced in 1988 and ran 75 issues until Gaiman chose to end the story in 1996; at the time it was DC Comics’ best-selling monthly at more than a million copies a year. Re-introduced in 2003, the graphic novel *Sandman: Endless Nights* continues the saga, reaching a wider audience than ever.

American Gods, his internationally best-selling novel, which won the 2002 Bram Stoker Award, Hugo Award and the Nebula Award



Neil Gaiman

for best novel, is a dark and kaleidoscopic journey deep into myth and across an America that is at once eerily familiar and utterly alien.

Gaiman’s latest work, *Anansi Boys*, hit #1 on *The New York Times* best-seller list. It tells the story of “Fat Charlie,” who finds out his dad wasn’t just any dad. He was Anansi, a trickster god, the spider-god. Anansi is the spirit of rebellion, able to overturn the social order, create wealth out of thin air, and baffle the devil.

With Roger Avary, Neil Gaiman has also written the script for *Beowulf*, directed by Robert Zemeckis and is in post production, starring Anthony Hopkins and Angelina Jolie.

Gaiman’s work probes the worlds of myth, imagination, and creativity. With a deep understanding of the critical importance of storytelling and myth, he explores the metaphors by which we live our lives. And at a time when creativity is one of the most valuable assets to any business, Gaiman’s mastery of myth and legend and their role in the contemporary world make his work as a writer and

speaker unique. At the podium, Gaiman shares the stories that have shaped the past, giving audiences the critical wisdom and inspiration to strive in both business and life.

Gaiman serves on the Board of the Comic Book Legal Defense Fund, an organization that works to protect the First Amendment rights of comic book creators, publishers, and retailers. Between 1993 and 2000, Gaiman did a series of occasional readings in theaters across America. This tour, known as the “Guardian Angel Tour,” raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for the Comic Book Legal Defense Fund and gained Gaiman a reputation as a performer and public speaker.

Gaiman will present “Intellectual Freedom and Comics,” on Saturday, April 28th at 10:30 AM. Immediately following that program, Gaiman will serve as the distinguished author at the author luncheon. A public program will be offered following the luncheon. Conference attendees can register for the morning program as well as the luncheon, but MLA will sell tickets for the afternoon program to the general public as well as MLA participants.



OFFLINE Retreat is Just Around The Corner

By

Kathy Mora, Great Falls Public Library
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You still have time to register for the Offline Retreat, to be held in Bozeman February 23 & 24 at the Bozeman Public Library. Don't miss this great opportunity to laugh, learn and mingle with friends and colleagues! Registration includes all sessions and meals (agenda below). You can grab the registration form and hotel information on the MLA website at www.mtlib.org See the following page for lodging information.

Friday, February 23

11:00 - 12:30 Registration and Lunch: Deli Sandwich Boxed Lunch

12:30 - 1:00 Introductions, Joys and Concerns

1:00 - 2:30 Mark Sheehan, Technology Update: What New Techno-Gadgets Tell Us About Our Libraries and Users. A tradition at OFFLINE for the last few years, Mark will bring some really fun toys to share. However, he asks you to bring your own favorite gadget and be prepared to tell the group why you think it's cool, and if it has anything to do with libraries.

2:30 - 2:45 Break

2:45 - 4:15 Greg Notess MSU-Bozeman: Screencasting for Quick Online Instruction New software, both fee and free, makes it easy to create videos of screen actions and add voice commentary or textual call outs. Learn about the new instructional option of screencasting and explore the software and planning process for creating quick, short tutorials for your library Web sites.

4:15 - 5:45 Jason Clark, MSU-Bozeman: Can Web 2.0 Become Library 2.0? "Web 2.0" actively encourages and enables user participation and online collaboration adding a new dimension to what people can expect from the web. As user expectations change, are libraries evolving into a "Library 2.0" model? More importantly, do we need to?

6:00 - 6:45 Tours of the New Bozeman Public Library

7:00 Dinner at the Library: I-Ho's Korean Grill: Chicken Wings, Korean Noodles, Kim Chi, Fried Rice, Egg Rolls (all Vegetarian except the Chicken Wings) followed by Drinks and Pool across the street at Montana Ale Works

Saturday, February 24

8:00 - 8:30 Breakfast Buffet: Yogurt, Fruit, Muffins, Danish and Beverages

8:30 - 10:00 Jim Semmelroth and Lynne Puckett: Running Kids' Games on Public PCs/Virtual Drives Learn how to have games available without having to change out CDs all the time!

10:00 - 10:15 Break

10:15 - 12:15 Dr. Kathy Laurin: Computer Access Solutions for Those with Disabilities and Those who are Aging MonTECH, Montana's Assistive Technology Program, will discuss and demonstrate computer access solutions for those with disabilities and aging related issues. Access options in Windows XP and Windows Vista, software solutions, and options related to display and readability, sounds and speech, mice and keyboards will be covered. Participants will learn how to set up an accessible computer station in their library.

12:15 - 1:30 Lunch: McKenzie River Pizza and Salad

1:30 - 3:00 Suzanne Reymer and Lauren McMullen: New Tools and Creative Ways to Use Them in Your Library Exciting things like Google Page Creator, Protospace, and other interactive web tools.

3:00 - 3:15 Wrap-up and Farewells

Transportation Librarian Attends National Meeting

By

Lisa Autio
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*Transportation Librarians
Gather in Minneapolis*

Montana Dept of Transportation Library sent its librarian, Lisa Autio, to the Transportation Pooled Fund Annual Meeting in St. Paul, Minnesota Sept. 19-21, where 17 special librarians from transit, state departments of transportation, and university transportation libraries met to discuss ways to share resources and ideas. Participants discussed the creation of regional transportation knowledge networks, marketing their libraries, and the need for strong direction of library services in the transportation sector on a national level.

New Look Focus?

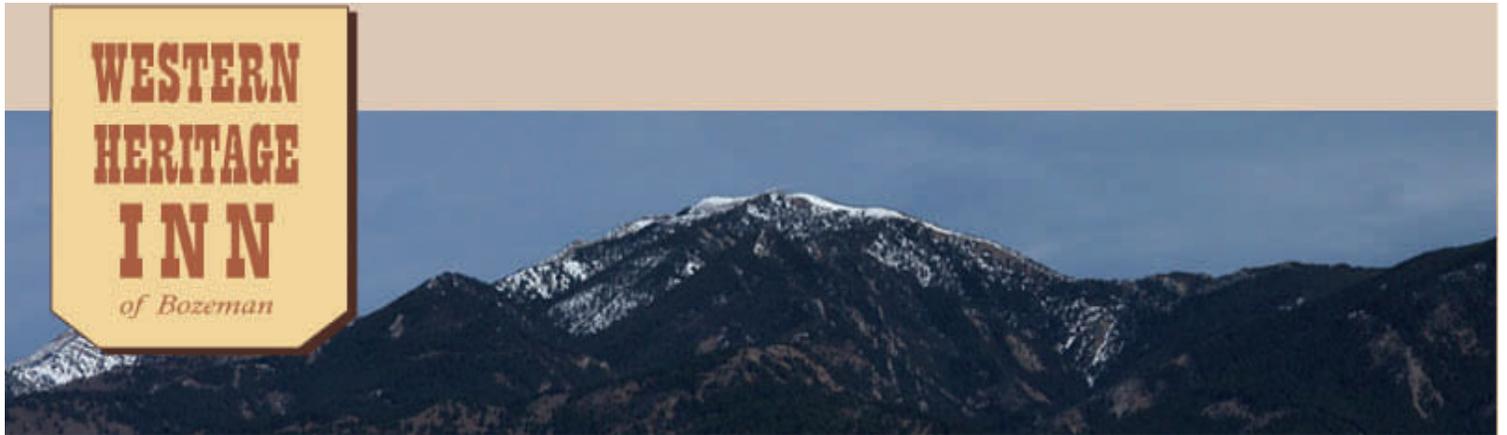
By

John Finn, Focus Editor
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Montana Library Focus has been a two column, black and white newsletter for over twenty years. It worked great when everybody in the association received a copy in their mailbox, not their inbox. Times have changed. The vast majority of us have to read **Focus** online. The format did not lend itself to the computer screen. Maybe the new format doesn't do much better, but at least it's a little more fun to work on. I'm anxious to read what you think of the new layout. Please send me your comments to the email address above.

Offline welcomes you to Bozeman!

May we recommend for your stay ...



For information about rates, including those for any government employees with I.D. - (schools, public libraries, academic institutions rooms are \$60 a night for single, \$65 double) please call toll-free (800)877-1094. Ask for "Offline" rooms.

Address: 1200 East Main Street, Bozeman
Telephone: (406) 586-8534
Toll Free (800) 877-1094
Email: info@westernheritageinn.com
Website: <http://www.westernheritageinn.com>

Walkable 3/10 of a mile location from Offline events at Bozeman Public Library, 626 East Main St.

Convenient to I-90 exit #309, restaurants, coffee shops, gas stations, Peets' Hill walking trails and downtown Bozeman.

Single and double rooms (some adjoining) available
Guest laundry available
Free wireless high-speed internet
Complimentary light breakfast
Free HBO and other movie channels
Kids 17 and under stay free.
Indoor whirlpool and Steam room (bring your bathing suit!)



2007 One Book Montana: Call For Nominations

By

Mark A. Sherouse, Exec. Director
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Montana's librarians know best what Montanans read, what Montanans want to read, and what Montanans ought to read. Thus we appeal to you, for nominations and advice about the 2007 One Book Montana selection.

One Book Montana soon will enter its fifth year. Our previous selections have included Mildred Walker's *Winter Wheat*, James Welch's *Fools Crow*, Diane Smith's *Letters from Yellowstone*, and Ivan Doig's *This House of Sky*. All have seen scores of Montana book groups read, reflect, and discuss not only the fine literature but also the issues these works raise. The program has benefited from support from Montana's libraries, but also from publishers, Montana newspapers and public radio stations, and others.

There are no formal criteria for the selection except that the work chosen have some Montana connection, that it be worth reading, likely to be read or re-read, and that it raise issues worthy of reflection and discussion by our neighbors and fellow citizens. In making the selection each spring, MCH is greatly assisted by an advisory committee on which two librarians, Bill Cochran (Billings) and Niki Whearty (Helena), serve. Two other Montana librarians, Jim Heckel (Great Falls) and Bonnie Williamson (Havre) are members of MCH itself.

Our process is one of informality, befitting our state. Send me a nomination or observation (email is fine), and I will forward it to the advisory committee for discussion and consideration. The advisory committee will reach a consensus, and I will accept it and announce it, following our custom, at the MLA conference this spring.

Kalispell's Glacier High School

By

John York, Librarian
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For the first time in 20 years a brand-new AA high school is being built in Montana and will open to students and staff in August of 2007. Glacier High School, on the northwest edge of Kalispell, will be home to about 900, 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students next fall, with seniors to be added the following year, bringing the total population of the school to about 1250-1300 students.

In November of 2004, the community passed a \$39.8 million bond, with \$35 million to be used for the new Glacier High School and \$4.8 million for remodeling at Flathead High School. The Glacier High School design was an intense process involving CTA Architects and a significant number of teachers and administrators from the district. To see pdf images of the site and both floors of this new school go to: www.sd5.k12.mt.us/ghs/index.htm Click on the link to **Design and Construction of GHS** where you will find links to the GHS site map and images for both floors.

The library for this school is a 9,300 square foot room on the second floor, above the central commons (see image). It has been designed to accommodate 3 classrooms for research. The library includes a traditional book collection with reference, fiction, non-fiction materials and recreational periodicals, and an audiovisual software collection, based primarily around DVD format. Electronic resources such as eBooks, digital audio, digital video and electronic databases will play a significant role in the collection as well.

The plan is for the library to have a traditional reference area that will include a 25-30 station computer lab for database, eBook and Internet access, nonfiction and fiction shelving, table seating in the central area for 24-30 patrons, a casual reading area with chairs, couches, magazine and newspaper shelving, a large circulation/work area with closed stack AV shelving, an AV instructional area with large work tables and seating for 30 patrons, somewhere between 20 and 30 AV computer workstations for digital audio and video work as well as scanning, PowerPoint and other digital based production, 2 sound rooms for audio recording, a large video studio with green screen for video production and storage areas for AV equipment and miscellaneous items. Also included is a small 4 to 6 person conference room. Immediately adjacent to the library, with a door into the reference area is a school-wide textbook room, which will be coordinated and operated by the library staff. To the right of the main library entrance will be a 60 -station computer lab operated by the Language Arts Department for word processing and computer based digital work.

One aesthetic highlight of this facility is the magnificent view it has looking northeast through Bad Rock Canyon to the peaks of Glacier National Park, specifically Mount Lincoln. The walls along the table seating area in the middle of the library are floor to ceiling glass facing Glacier National Park.



Leadership News

Editor's Note: This issue has several articles relating to Leadership issues in the Montana library community. One article is about the MPLA Leadership Institute at Ghost Ranch, and there are four more articles about new library directors in the state. There seemed to be a theme, so they're all right here on the next two pages.

By
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Three Montana librarians attended this year's MPLA Leadership Institute. Samantha Schmehl Hines and Donna McCrea from UM-Missoula, and TyRee Jenks from MSU-Billings, spent a week in late October at Ghost Ranch in Abiquiu, New Mexico, strengthening their leadership skills. The goal of the Institute is to help emerging library leaders learn the skills they need to develop their full career potential. Session topics included principles of effective leadership, risk taking, interpersonal communication, personal planning, goal setting, team building, and managing change. The Institute was facilitated by Maureen Sullivan, a nationally-recognized leadership consultant, and Montana's own energetic and enthusiastic Mary Bushing.

Comments from Samantha Schmehl Hines: I applied to Ghost

Ranch because I had been chairing a lot of meetings and committees lately, and wanted to learn more effective ways of managing the processes. Through the large and small group discussions and various exercises we worked on, I learned a number of skills that I've been able to put to use right upon my return to work. It was definitely a worthwhile learning experience unlike anything I've had since leaving school, and I recommend it to anyone in a leadership position or anticipating moving into one.

Comments from Donna McCrea: I had two main goals for my participation in the Leadership Institute – first, I serve on a number of professional committees and boards and I wanted to learn how to be a truly effective member and facilitator. I'm certain that the pre-Institute readings and the Institute sessions will move me toward this goal. Second, as an archivist I'm concerned about what I see as a lack of interest in leadership training in my field, especially for those of us in the beginning or middle of our careers. Now that I've attended the MPLA Leadership Institute I feel more strongly than ever that leadership training is important at all levels. This may be truer in librarianship even than in other professions, as we are in the midst of profound change and our survival will depend on our ability to adapt. One of the points I took home from the Institute is that leadership and vision can emerge from all levels. I encourage all Montana librarians with an interest in leading our profession into the future to apply for the MPLA Leadership Institute.

Comments from TyRee Jenks: When I applied to the MPLA Leadership Institute, one of my goals was to develop more skills in networking and leading within the profession. There is a huge pool of talent among librarians and in the library community. The institute

allowed me to meet amazing people from the MPLA region and discover that there are great leaders out there everywhere. The experiences of the facilitators, mentors, and fellows were a large part of the learning experience. There are talented people out there who will be moving the profession ahead and with the knowledge gained from the Institute, Montana Librarians will be among that group. I urge anyone with any interest in leadership, no matter your current position, to apply.

For more information about the MPLA Leadership Institute at Ghost Ranch, see the website at www.mpla.us/leadership/index.html.

Miles City Public Library Has New Director

By
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Sonja Woods, Director of the Miles City Public Library (MCPL) since May 2006, was awarded the Individual of the Year Award by the Miles City Chamber of Commerce at the annual chamber banquet. Sonja was nominated by her staff. Under Sonja's leadership, library employees have begun the Montana State Library certification process, and the MCPL has partnered with Miles Community College Library to expand library access to both local and state-wide resources. Sonja also initiated a badly needed construction project to alleviate annual flooding problems. As reported in the Miles City Star, Hannah Nash, children's librarian, said "Each day Mrs. Woods increases those [diverse] services – always striving for that positive patron experience, an innovative library service, or a way to improve Miles City."

New Library Leaders at University of Montana and Rocky Mountain College

By

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Librarian
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ASLD members Gail Wilkerson and Steve McCann interviewed two recently appointed academic library directors. Read on to find out more about Bill Kehler, Director of the Paul Adams Memorial Library at Rocky Mountain College, and Bonnie Allen, Dean of Libraries at the University of Montana.

Bill Kehler – Paul Adams Memorial Library at Rocky Mountain College

Interviewed by Gail Wilkerson
Like a lot of people, I came to library work in a round about way. I have a B.S. in Education from Eastern Montana College (now MSU-Billings), but after teaching Middle School math in Tempe, Arizona, I realized that the classroom was not where I wanted to be. I explored other occupations and found myself back in school at MSU-B, where I started working in the Library as a student assistant. I moved up to Serials Technician, then worked as the Interlibrary Loan Technician there for ten years before getting my M.L.S. through the University of Arizona program and taking the position of assistant librarian at Rocky Mountain College. I held that position ten years before becoming Director of the Library last fall.

What experiences influenced your decision to become an academic librarian?

I experienced all types of libraries through my coursework and internships and found that I enjoyed college libraries and particularly college students the best. I'd say it was more fate than a conscious decision that landed

me in an academic library, though.

What goals do you have for the Paul M. Adams Memorial Library that you hope to accomplish in the next year or two?

Most of my goals right now are of a personal nature – that is learning all the duties and tasks of this new position and becoming an effective administrator. My goals for the Library include building upon the legacy of Jan Jelinek, the previous director, especially in keeping up with new technologies and reorganizing the college archives. I'd also like to create a Library Advisory Committee composed of a variety of members from on and off campus.

What role do you see yourself playing in the Montana library community, either as a leader or a participant?

Well, I've been a member of the Montana library community for about 20 years now and have served in various leadership roles in MLA and the OMNI and BAHASIC consortia. I will definitely continue participating and playing a leadership role as needed.

What advice do you have for young people who are considering entering the librarian profession?

Get experience, keep up on technology, get an MLS. Explore all types of library work in all types of libraries, because you never know where fate will lead you.

Bonnie Allen – Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library at The University of Montana

Interviewed by Steve McCann
Bonnie Allen is the Dean of Libraries at the University of Montana. Before arriving in Montana, she worked at Oregon State University as the Associate University Librarian for Access, Collections and Technical Services. Bonnie has a Bachelor's degree in art history and French, as well as a MLS from Indiana University and an MBA in Marketing

and Finance from Portland State University. She has worked in various academic libraries including the Clatsop Community College in Astoria, OR, the Oregon Graduate Institute, Willamette University, Northern Arizona University, the University of Cincinnati, and Indiana University. In addition, she has worked as a Product Manager and Marketing Director for the Western Library Network. For this **Focus** issue I had a chance to sit down with Bonnie and ask her a few questions:

What experiences influenced your decision to become an academic librarian?

While not consciously deciding to work in academics, Bonnie's early experience at Indiana University as an Art History major set the stage and made her very comfortable in a university setting. She appreciates working with academic professionals and has a special interest in, and experience with, working through academic governing structures.

What goals do you have for the University of Montana Library that you hope to accomplish in the next year or two?

At Mansfield library Bonnie is particularly interested in enhancing the library environment as one where students can collaborate freely. Bonnie feels it's important for students to be engaged both academically and within a wider world. At the University of Montana, this means that Bonnie will be working with library faculty and staff to put the pieces together and to set a new direction of collaboration in the coming years.

What role do you see yourself playing in the Montana library community, either as a leader or as a participant?

Bonnie brings extensive experience working with the Oregon
New Leaders Continued on page 15...

Leaders Continued ...

Library Association and is looking forward to participating as an active member, as well as a member of the wider Montana community. Bonnie's goal is to work with the association to continue to make the MLA relevant for academic librarians through programs and/or organization.

What advice do you have for young people who are considering entering the librarian profession?

As in all libraries, intelligence and curiosity is essential to succeeding in the profession. For academic libraries, Bonnie says that an innovative bent will serve a potential librarian well. To succeed, Bonnie feels that a librarian needs to be comfortable tweaking the system as well as possess the ability to thrive amidst a state change.

Ronan Has a New Public Library Director

*By
Steph Johnson
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Congratulations to Michelle Fenger, who has been named the new Director of the Ronan City Library! Michelle took the reins January First following the retirement of former Director Marilyn Koester. For the last 5 years she's been the Lake County bookmobile librarian and has driven many miles delivering books in all kinds of weather to communities throughout the region. In July she bought a home in Ronan that she shares with her 16 year old son, her boyfriend of 4 years and their 4 dogs.

Michelle is dedicated to providing library services to rural communities and hopes to continue serving this Montana population in the future. She has a degree in Elementary Education from MSU-Northern and in 2006 won a PEEL scholarship through the Montana State Library. So, in addition to her new job responsibilities she is currently working toward her MLS degree online through the University of Washington.

Congratulations again, and best wishes to Michelle and the Ronan City Library community! Stop in and say hello to her next time you're driving through Ronan!